AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, monitor software 203 is established inside SPU 100, thus enabling it to operate securely. In addition, at least one secret cryptographic key is established internally to SPU 100, which enables monitor software 203, and possibly protection-critical software 202, to provide cryptographic proof of their identity and validity. For example, a challenge-response protocol could be used to authenticate SPU 100 to other trusted systems. *See, e.g.,* Menezes et al., *Handbook of Applied Cryptography*, pp. 385-424 (CRC Press 1996) ("Menezes"), and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/628,692, entitled "Systems and Methods for Using Cryptography to Protect Secure and Insecure Computing Environments," filed July 28, 2000, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference. Although monitor software 203 may be constant, and represented by the same bits in all instances of SPU 100 (e.g., located in secure internal ROM 141), the secret cryptographic key may be different in all instances.